

DORGAN for 15 minutes, and Senator DAYTON for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President—and I do not intend to object—I think the Senators who wish to be heard on this issue should have an opportunity. I did want to see if the ranking member on this side might have some request at this time with regard to the timing of the speeches or indications of how votes might occur. I withdraw my reservation and yield the floor to Senator LUGAR.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator cannot yield the floor.

The Senator from Indiana is recognized.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that Senators SESSIONS, COLLINS, GORDON SMITH, and TIM HUTCHINSON voted "yes" on the unanimous consent request as granted by the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Very well.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I inquire if Members on our side wish time. There are requests: From Senator ROBERTS for 10 minutes, 5 minutes for Senator CRAIG, and I reserve 15 minutes for myself.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. I thank the Chair.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask that the Senators alternate, Republican and Democrat, as we acknowledge those who have requested time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

There is no objection.

Mr. DASCHLE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, before the distinguished majority leader leaves the floor, I inquire, then, about any plans for further votes to occur today or this afternoon.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I failed to add to the list Senator LEAHY. I ask 5 minutes for Senator LEAHY.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, with this unanimous consent request, there will be no more rollcall votes today. I thank all Senators for their cooperation.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAYTON). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I understand under the unanimous consent request I am recognized for up to 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 20 minutes.

#### EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, here is the situation, just for the benefit of all who are watching and wondering what happened. Basically what has happened is that the Senate just took up the House-passed Agriculture emergency bill and passed it, and therefore it will be sent to the President for his signature. I also point out we still have pending in the Senate the bill that was passed by our committee and there has been entered a motion to reconsider that has been placed by our leader, by Senator DASCHLE of South Dakota. So at some point when we come back it is entirely within the realm of feasibility or possibility that this Senate might want to revisit that Senate bill because it is clear that the House bill is totally inadequate to meet the needs of our farmers across the country.

I am proud of our committee and the work it did. Keep in mind that our committee was not reconstituted or able to do business until June 29, because the Senate organizing resolution was held up until then. And we did not have our full membership until July 10. But our committee worked diligently to look at the entire spectrum of farm families across America to try to determine what was needed to keep these farm families in business, keep their heads above water for yet another year until we can get a farm bill passed. The bill we reported out met the needs of farmers across America. Yet the White House said no.

I again point out that our committee voted the Senate bill out on a bipartisan vote. The Senate voted, again on a bipartisan vote, in favor of our bill and the provisions we had in our bill. But the White House said no.

Now we are at the point, because the House has left, they went home, and because we need to get this money out, that a gun is held at our heads by the White House and by OMB. They are saying if we do not pass the House bill, or if we pass something more adequate to the need in rural America we may lose even the \$5.5 billion the House provided. So the gun was held at our heads and the White House refused to compromise.

Yesterday I spoke several times with the head of the Office of Management and Budget, Mr. Daniels, I spoke with the President's chief of staff, and I spoke with the Secretary of Agriculture to see if they would at least meet with us to see if there could be some compromise worked out. I said to the President's chief of staff last night: I respectfully request a meeting with the President at least to lay out our case on why the House bill was inadequate. That meeting was denied. So the President decided he would accept only \$5.5 billion, which is only about three-fourths of what Congress passed in a similar bill last year.

I had a long visit with the head of OMB on the phone last night to try to determine why they picked that number. He said: Well, it looked as if farm income was a little bit better this year.

I said: Compared to what? We have had extremely low commodity prices, in some cases at about 30-year lows. Now, because livestock receipts were up a little bit the ag picture looks a little bit better than it did last year, but we are still in the basement. However, the money in this bill mainly goes to crop farmers, and they are the ones who are hurting the most. They are not only as bad off as last year, but they are probably worse off than last year because the prices are still low and all of their production costs have gone up—fertilizer, fuel, everything. Yet somehow the bean counters down at OMB have said no, the House bill is sufficient.

I will resubmit for the RECORD at this time letters or statements from just about all of the main farm organizations: The American Farm Bureau, National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Corn Growers Association, the American Soybean Association, the National Barley Growers Association and others—all saying that the House bill is inadequate. I ask unanimous consent they be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Voice of Agriculture, Monday  
July 30, 2001]

#### FARM BUREAU DISAPPOINTED IN HOUSE FUNDING FOR FARMERS

WASHINGTON, DC., June 21, 2001—The House Agriculture Committee's decision to provide only \$5.5 billion in a farm relief package "is disheartening and will not provide sufficient assistance needed by many farm and ranch families," said American Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Stallman.

"We believe needs exceed \$7 billion," Stallman said. "The fact is agricultural commodity prices have not strengthened since last year when Congress saw fit to provide significantly more aid."

Stallman said securing additional funding will be a high priority for Farm Bureau. He said the organization will now turn its attention to the Senate and then the House-Senate conference committee that will decide the fate of much-needed farm relief.

"Four years of low prices has put a lot of pressure on farmers. We need assistance to keep this sector viable," the farm leader said.

"We've been told net farm income is rising but a closer examination shows that is largely due to higher livestock prices, not most of American agriculture," Stallman said.

"And, costs are rising for all farmers and ranchers due to problems in the energy industry that are reflected in increased costs for fuel and fertilizer. Farmers and ranchers who produce grain, oilseeds, cotton, fruits and vegetables need help and that assistance is needed soon."